

Appln No.: 10/729,841
Amendment dated July 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing ~~an~~ a non-physical-folder item in a computer system between a sharer and a sharee, comprising:
 - the sharer selecting ~~an~~ a non-physical-folder item to be shared;
 - the sharer selecting at least one sharee with whom the non-physical-folder item is to be shared;
 - storing information, corresponding to the item to be shared and corresponding to the sharee, on the sharer's computer; and
 - providing to the sharee direct access to the non-physical-folder item on the sharer's computer.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the sharer also designates a level of permission that is assigned to the sharee.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising verifying that a file share exists from which the non-physical-folder item to be shared can be accessed remotely.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein if a file share already exists, the permissions on the file share are set so as to allow the sharee to access the non-physical-folder item that is to be shared.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising verifying that any permissions associated with the non-physical-folder item that is to be shared are set so that the sharee can access the item.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether the non-physical-folder item is protected, and if so verifying that the item can be shared with the sharee, and if the item cannot be shared, providing a notification to the sharer.

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7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising verifying that the sharer's firewall will allow the sharee to access the shared non-physical-folder item.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising recording one or more details of the sharing transaction, including at least one of what was shared, who it was shared with, or when it was shared.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising sending a link to the sharee that allows the sharee to access the shared non-physical-folder item directly from the sharer's computer.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising allowing the sharee to query the sharer's computer to see what the sharer has shared out with the sharee.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the non-physical-folder item is an individual item that is shared directly, independent of a share status of a folder in which the item is saved.

12. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media for enabling a computer-program segment to communicate with one or more other computer-program segments for sharing ~~an~~ a non-physical-folder item, said media comprising:

a set of computer-usable instructions that cause a request to provide access to ~~an~~ a non-physical-folder item that is to be shared to be communicated from the sharee's computer directly to one or more other computer-program segments in the sharer's computer capable of executing said request.

20. (Currently Amended) The media of Claim 19, further comprising computer-usable instructions to verify that any permissions associated with the non-physical-folder item are set so that the item can be accessed.

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21. (Currently Amended) The media of Claim 19, further comprising computer-usable instructions for determining whether the non-physical-folder item is protected, and if so, verifying that the item can be shared, and if the item cannot be shared, providing a notification.

22. (Original) The media of Claim 19, further comprising computer-usable instructions for recording one or more details of the sharing transaction, including at least one of what was shared, who it was shared with, or when it was shared.

23. (Currently Amended) The media of Claim 19, further comprising computer-usable instructions for sending a link that provides direct access to the non-physical-folder item.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing ~~an~~ a non-physical-folder item between a sharer and a sharee, comprising:

receiving a call issued by the sharer for setting at least one permission which will allow the sharee to directly access the non-physical-folder item at the sharer's computer; and
in response to the call, setting the permission ~~is set~~ for the item.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 24, further comprising verifying that any permissions associated with the non-physical-folder item are set so that the sharee can access the non-physical-folder item.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 24, further comprising determining whether the non-physical-folder item is protected, and if so, verifying that the non-physical-folder item can be shared with the sharee.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 24, wherein when access may be unavailable to an non-physical-folder item, a notification is provided to the sharer.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 24, wherein the sharer is able to limit the type of access that is provided to the non-physical-folder item.

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29. (Original) The method of Claim 24, further comprising recording one or more details of the sharing transaction.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 24, further comprising sending a link to the sharee that allows the sharee to access the non-physical-folder item directly from the sharer's computer.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 24, further comprising allowing the sharee to query the sharer's computer to see what the sharer has shared out with the sharee.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the item that is shared is an individual item which is shared directly, independent of a share status of a folder in which the item is saved.

33. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media for enabling a sharer to share ~~an~~ a non-physical-folder item with a sharee, comprising:
a set of computer-usable instructions that allow the sharee to directly access the non-physical-folder item through the sharer's computer, independent of a share status of a physical folder in which the non-physical-folder item is stored on the sharer's computer.

34. (Original) The media of Claim 33, wherein the sharer designates a level of permission that is assigned to the sharee, and additional sharees may receive different permissions.

35. (Original) The media of Claim 33, wherein the sharer designates a permission for the item, and additional items may be assigned different permissions.

36. (Original) The media of Claim 33, further comprising computer-usable instructions for determining whether the item is protected, and if so, verifying that the item can be shared with the sharee, and if the item cannot be shared, providing a notification to the sharer.

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37. (Original) The media of Claim 33, wherein when access may be unavailable to an item, a notification is provided to the sharer.

38. (Original) The media of Claim 33, further comprising computer-usable instructions for recording one or more details of the sharing transaction.

39. (Original) The media of Claim 33, further comprising computer-usable instructions for sending a link to the sharee that allows the sharee to access the shared item directly from the sharer's computer.

40. (Original) The media of Claim 33, further comprising computer-usable instructions for allowing the sharee to query the sharer's computer to determine what the sharer has shared out with the sharee.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing an individual non-physical-folder item in a computer system between a sharer and a sharee, comprising:

designating an individual non-physical-folder item on a sharer's computer to be shared independent of a share status of a folder in which the item is saved; and

sharing the individual item with a sharee such that the sharee is provided with direct access to the individual item from the sharer's computer.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 42, wherein the sharer designates a level of permission for the sharee, and additional sharees may receive different levels of permission.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 42, further comprising verifying that any permissions associated with the item are set so that the sharee can access the item.

45. (Original) The method of Claim 42, further comprising determining whether the item is protected, and if so, verifying that the item can be shared.

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46. (Original) The method of Claim 42, wherein when access is unavailable to an item, a notification is provided to the sharer.

47. (Original) The method of Claim 42, further comprising recording one or more details of the sharing transaction.

48. (Original) The method of Claim 42, further comprising sending a link to the sharee that allows the sharee to access the item directly from the sharer's computer.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing the sharee remote access to the item on the sharer's computer.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer readable media of claim 19, wherein the set of computer-usable instructions cause the request to provide remote access to the at least one item.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the permission further allows the sharee to remotely access the item at the sharer's computer.

53. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein the set of computer-usable instructions allow the sharee to remotely access the item through the sharer's computer.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein in the sharing step the sharee is provided with remote access to the individual item from the sharer's computer.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the item comprises a file item.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the item comprises a non-folder non-file item.

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57. (Canceled)
58. (Canceled)
59. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable media of claim 19, wherein the item comprises a file item.
60. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable media of claim 19, wherein the item comprises a non-folder non-file item.
61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the item comprises a file item.
62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the item comprises a non-folder non-file item.
63. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein the item comprises a file item.
64. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable media of claim 33, wherein the item comprises a non-folder non-file item.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the item comprises a file item.
66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the item comprises a non-folder non-file item.
67. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions for performing a method for sharing an item in a computer system between a sharer and a sharee, comprising steps of:
- a) receiving input from the sharer identifying a first item to be shared;

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b) receiving input from the sharer identifying at least one sharee with whom the first item is to be shared;

c) receiving a request directly from the sharee for access to the item on the sharer's computer;

d) responsive to step c), providing direct access to the sharee to the item on the sharer's computer; and

e) prohibiting access by the sharee to a second item stored in a same folder on the sharer's computer as the shared item, based on a non-shared status of the second item.

68. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 67, wherein step e) comprises hiding the second item from the sharee.

69. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing one or more data structures representing a hierarchy of items stored in a file system, comprising:

a first data field on the sharer's computer identifying a shared status of a first file item stored in a folder; and

a second data field on the sharer's computer identifying a shared status of a second file item stored in the folder,

wherein the first data field indicates that the first file item is shared by a sharer user with a sharee user, and wherein the second data field indicates that the second file item is not shared by the sharer user with the sharee user.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether the item is protected and, if so, verifying that the item can be shared with the sharee, and if the item can be shared, determining whether to remove the protection from the item prior to sharing the item with the sharee.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 33, wherein the instructions further comprise determining whether the item is protected and, if so, verifying that

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the item can be shared with the sharee, and if the item can be shared, determining whether to remove the protection from the item prior to sharing the item with the sharee.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 42, further comprising determining whether the item is protected and, if so, verifying that the item can be shared with the sharee, and if the item can be shared, determining whether to remove the protection from the item prior to sharing the item with the sharee.

74. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the non-physical-folder item comprises a virtual folder.

75. (New) The media of Claim 19, wherein the non-physical-folder item comprises a virtual folder.

76. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the non-physical-folder item comprises a virtual folder.

77. (New) The media of Claim 33, wherein the non-physical-folder item comprises a virtual folder.

78. (New) The media of Claim 42, wherein the non-physical-folder item comprises a virtual folder.